(c) No, Sir. No State has formally communicated its refusal to set up Navodaya Vidyalayas but some States have expressed reservations about this scheme in various fora.

(d) No, Sir.

Underweighing of cargo at Indira Gandhi International Airport

275. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an organised racket involved in underweighing of bulk cargo before loading has been unearthed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport recently endangering the safety of the aircraft;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted into the matter; and

(d) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken by Government against those involved in the racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Percentage of illiteracy in the country

276. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of annual rise in illitracy in the Country and what percentage of illiteracy is anticipated in the country by 2000 A.D.;

(b) the extent to which the rise in the percentage of illiteracy in the country compares with the percentage of illiteracy in the other developing countries in Asia;

(c) what is the per capita expenditure incurred on education to raise the percentage of literacy and to what extent it is comparable with the countries like Iran, Canada, USSR and other Asian countries; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to achieve the literacy target, if any, by 2000 A. D. in view of the present trends and the achievements made so far and the rate of growing population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The census operations conducted an interval of ten years collect *inter-alia* data pertaining to literacy. According to 1981 census, percentage of illiteracy in the country for population of all age-groups was 63.77 per cent. This was lower by 6.78 percentage points as compared to the illiteracy rate of 70.55 per cent for 1971. Thus there is no annual rise in the percentage of illiteracy in India. The next national literacy rate will be available only in 1991 when the next census will be conducted.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Per capita expenditure on Elementary (formal and non-formal) and adult education in India is around Rs. 41. India spends about slightly more than 3 per cent of the proportion of grossnational product on education. Comparative per capita expenditure on education in respect of other countries is as under:

Iran	..	5.7 per cent
Canada	..	8 per cent
USSR	..	6.6 per cent
Iraq	..	4.3 per cent
Japan	..	5.7 per cent
Republic of Korea	..	5.1 per cent
Pakistan	..	2.0 per cent
Nepal	..	2.1 per cent

(d) The main thrust areas to raise the literacy level include achievement of universal elementary education, non-formal education and eradication of illiteracy in the age-group 15—35 years. National Policy on Education—1986 envisages following strategies to raise the level of literacy;

(i) Systematic Programmes of adult education will be organised for eradication of illiteracy particularly in the age-group 15-35.

(ii) Thrust will be on universal enrolment and universal retention of children upto 14 years of age.

(iii) A large and systematic programme of non-formal education will be launched for school dropouts for children from habitations without schools, working children and girls who cannot attend whole day schools.

(iv) Highest priority will be given to solve the problem of children dropping out of school by adopting meticulously formulated strategies to ensure children's retention at school.

(v) Special measure will be taken up for the removal of illiteracy among women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Multi-pronged operational strategies have been concretised in the document "Programme of Action" (The document was laid on the Table of the Sabha on 8th August, 1986) to operationalise above policy parameters.

Accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings

277. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons were killed and several injured in a major train-bus collision at an unmanned railway level crossing at Paohali Pahar in the North Lakhimpur District of Upper Assam sometime in September, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter;

(c) what is the number of rail accidents at the unmanned level crossings during the last three years (year-wise) stating the number of persons killed in each accident;

(d) what was the total number of unmanned level crossings in the country at the beginning of the Sixth Five Year Plan period and how many of these were manned as against the target during the Plan period; and

(e) whether Government propose to give priority to man the unmanned level crossings to minimise such accidents, if so, what steps are contemplated in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. 32 bus passengers were killed and 78 injured in this accident.

(b) On 11-9-86 around 8.55 hours, while 176 Dn. passenger train was running between Harmuti and Tatibahar stations of North Lakhimpur-Rangapara North section of N.F. Railway, it collided with a private passenger bus at unmanned level crossing No. RM 227, when the bus driver tried to cross the level crossing in the face of the approaching train. The accident has been enquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, N.E. Circle, who has held the Driver and the Conductor of the bus responsible for the accident.

The State Government has been requested to take action for disciplining road